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Laredo, Tex., August 19, 1899.—The inspection of persons passing the frontier by ferry or small boats is now in good working order. There were 162 persons passed on ferryboats yesterday, the 18th instant, and it requires a guard there all day. Eight persons who left the train this morning at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, were not allowed entry by the guard who watches the ferryboats. They claimed to come from noninfected points, but had no evidence where they had been during the preceding ten days, and they came on the train from between Monterey and the City of Mexico. I, therefore, think it necessary that I keep a guard at the ferry as well as on the international foot bridge during the present quarantine season. It only requires a guard during daylight, as the Mexican authorities allow the ferryboats to run only during daylight.

Laredo, Tex., August 22, 1899.—I have the honor to submit the following report for week ended August 19, 1899: Inspected and allowed entry at the international foot bridge, 2,594; refused entry, 8. Inspected and allowed entry over the international ferryboats for August 18 and August 19, 294; refused entry, 9. Passengers inspected and allowed entry over Mexican National Railroad: From City of Mexico, 41; San Luis Potosi, 2; Monterey, 71; other points, 60; total entered for the week reported, 174.

August 15: Took a passenger from the train claiming to be from City of Mexico, but with no other evidence, and placed him in the detention camp. The person had very little money and gave references of having been working here, and from them I procured evidence of his not having been in an infected locality. I released him on 16th instant. Up to the present date, he is in perfect health, working at his trade. Two of the persons detained at the foot bridge were from Pueblo, and they telegraphed to the United States consular agent there for certificates which arrived in due time, but they were seven days in detention all together, as they would not telegraph for evidence upon their arrival.

On the 14th instant, 33 noninfection certificates were issued to persons entering Mexico. On the 15th instant, 73 certificates were issued. I instructed them to get inspected at Monterey, San Luis Potosi, and City of Mexico before returning. They are now returning daily, which will increase the weekly entries into the United States that much. On the 15th instant, 2 persons from Jalapa with noninfection certificates from the United States consul-general at City of Mexico, countersigned L. E. C., were detained by the State quarantine inspector. They left Jalapa on the 10th instant, had their baggage inspected at City of Mexico, and arrived here on the 15th with a clean bill of health from the above-named persons, but were detained until the 20th instant. * * *

Respectfully, yours,

H. J. HAMILTON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox on the Rio Grande.

ON THE RIO GRANDE, August 15, 1899.

SIR: Since writing you, I have visited the following American and Mexican towns on the Rio Grande, viz: (a) American—Toslingo, Polvo, Presidio, Spencers Ranch, Depot, Piedral, Riodosa, Condalario, Copata, and Commanche Springs; (b) Mexican—Presidio del Norte, Malata, San Antonio, Barago, Santa Lina, and San Carlos. Besides these towns, there are numerous small ranches and settlements on both sides of the river. I found smallpox prevalent in every form and stage and the situation alarming.

My investigation discloses the fact that on the American side, in the towns above mentioned, there are at least 500 cases of smallpox, including convalescents. My investigation on the Mexican side leads me to believe (it is a very hard matter to learn anything accurately on the Mexican frontier) that 1,500 cases exist.

In the towns of San Antonio, Barago, Santa Lina, and Malata, the greater percentage of cases were found to be of the hæmorrhagic type, or as the Mexicans say, "viruelas negras." The mortality rate at these towns is about 25 per cent. No medical attention is ever had by the poorer class of Mexicans, hence the large mortality percentage. In Mexico the disease is allowed to expend itself without medical interference.

As previously stated, we have 6 United States sanitary guards stationed along the river for a distance of 125 miles which cover the infected districts; and here I would recommend, in order to make the Service more efficient and to satisfy the people, that the collector of customs be authorized to appoint 4 additional guards. (a) Having the best interests of the Department in mind, I have suggested to Mr. Drake the immediate appointment of 4 additional sanitary guards (United States Marine-Hospital Service) to serve until such time as he can get regular authority from you. Will you kindly wire Mr. C. C. Drake to Marfa, Tex., your approval or disapproval of these additional men.

In reference to vaccination, I will say that I have as yet found but 1 family who refused to be vaccinated. The majority of these people very much desire vaccination. We have, in a great measure, quieted the Texas people by the vigilance of our guards and the activity displayed by the Bureau. Will keep you fully advised as to the developments. The guards are all scouting and giving instructions to the people to prevent the spread of the epidemic.

Respectfully, yours,

LEE HUME,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

a These were authorized August 22.

VACCINATION REPORTS FOR THE FOUR MONTHS ENDED AUGUST 31, 1899.

Station.	Week ended—	No. vaccinated.	Station.	Week ended—	No. vaccinated.
Baltimore, Md.....	May 27	125	Cleveland, Ohio.....	May 20	435
Boston, Mass.....	May 20	6	Do.....	May 27	442
Do.....	June 10	6	Do.....	June 3	280
Do.....	June 17	5	Do.....	June 10	136
Do.....	June 24	42	Do.....	June 17	109
Do.....	July 1	22	Do.....	June 24	62
Do.....	July 8	2	Do.....	June 30	22
Total.....		83	Total.....		1,617
Buffalo, N. Y.....	May 13	65	Detroit, Mich.....	May 20	36
Do.....	May 20	291	Do.....	May 27	0
Do.....	May 27	249	Total.....		36
Do.....	June 3	306	Duluth, Minn.....	May 20	15
Do.....	June 10	196	Erie, Pa.....	do.....	88
Do.....	June 17	171	Milwaukee, Wis.....	May 27	82
Do.....	June 24	98	Do.....	June 7-17	85
Do.....	July 1	55	Total.....		167
Do.....	July 8	24	New York, N. Y.....	May 29	48
Do.....	July 15	20	Do.....	June 10	31
Do.....	July 22	29	Do.....	June 17	38
Do.....	July 29	33	Do.....	June 24	23
Do.....	Aug. 5	26	Do.....	July 1	57
Do.....	Aug. 12	26	Do.....	July 8	20
Do.....	Aug. 19	24	Do.....	July 15	27
Do.....	Aug. 26	24	Do.....	July 24	195
Total.....		1,637	Do.....	July 29	144
Charleston, S. C.....	^a May 31	17	Total.....		556
Do.....	June 7	4	Savannah, Ga.....	June 17	20
Total.....		21	Do.....	June 24	3
Chicago, Ill.....	May 22	615	Do.....	July 1	17
Do.....	May 29	478	Do.....	July 8	16
Do.....	June 5	460	Do.....	July 15	36
Do.....	June 12	300	Do.....	July 22	29
Do.....	^b June 15	124	Total.....		121
Total.....		1,977			
Cleveland, Ohio.....	May 13	131			

^a Period to.^b Three days.